

REMARKS

Claim 4 is allowed in this application. Applicants have hereinabove amended claims 4, 27, 29, 31, 32, 34, 38, 39, and 43, and have canceled claims 28, 30, and 33 without prejudice or disclaimer to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future application. Claims 4, 31, and 34 have been amended to correct antecedent language. Claim 38 has been amended to define an abbreviation used in the claim. Claim 27 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 4 and canceled dependent claim 28. Claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 4 and canceled dependent claim 30. Claim 32 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 4 and canceled dependent claim 33. Claim 39 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 4. Claim 43 has also been amended to incorporate the features of claim 4. Applicants submit that this amendment raises no issue of new matter. After entry of this Amendment, claims 4 and 27, 29, 31-32, and 34-48 will be pending and under examination.

In the October 18, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner alleged that claims 27-48 are directed to an invention distinct from the invention originally claimed, and stated that claims 27-48 are withdrawn. The Examiner further stated that the applicants are required to cancel withdrawn claims 27-48 or amend them to cause rejoinder by including all the features of the allowed product claim into the methods.

In response, without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's position, and in order to expedite prosecution, applicants have hereinabove amended claims 27, 29, 32, 38, and

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43 to recite the features recited in claim 4. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow the pending claims.

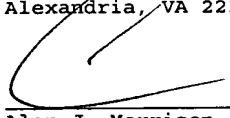
If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorneys invite the Examiner to telephone them at the number provided below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, if any fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	
 Alan J. Morrison Reg. No. 37,399	<u>12/10/04</u> Date